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TELEGRAM

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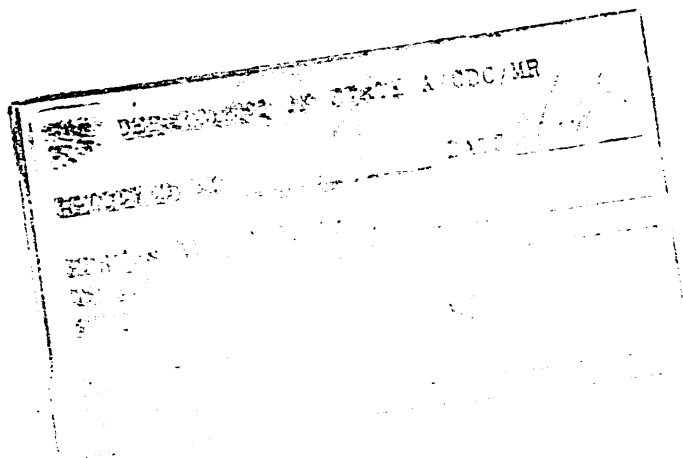
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PAGE 01 MANILA 26780 120842Z
ACTION MA-06

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-10 OIC-02 AF-10
CIAE-00 EA-10 DODE-00 H-01 IO-15 NEA-06 NSC-05
ARA-16 NSAE-00 L-03 TRSE-00 PH-09 PA-01 SSM-03
SMS-01 SAL-01 RP-10 ACDA-12 SSM-02 ICAE-00 SP-02
SR-04 SPRS-02 /154 M

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P 120827Z NOV 81 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6319
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOGADISHU
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION GENEVA
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MADRID FOR CSCE DELEGATION

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: ICRC, SHUM, SREF, PORG, AF, AG, MO, SO
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE: COMMISSION I
RESOLUTION ON ICRC ACCESS TO ARMED CONFLICTS IN WESTERN
SAHARA, OGADEN, AND AFGHANISTAN

1.(U) AFTER EXTENDED DEBATE NOVEMBER 10, CONFERENCE
COMMISSION I APPROVED RESOLUTION (TEXT IN PARA. 2 BELOW)
SPONSORED BY SWEDISH AND DUTCH RED CROSS SOCIETIES. FINAL
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PAGE 02 MANILA 26780 120842Z

VOTE WAS 82 (U.S.) - 16 (SOVIET BLOC, RED CROSS/CRESCENT

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SOCIETIES OF BANGLADESH, MOROCCO, EGYPT) - 14. RESOLUTION EXPECTED TO BE APPROVED BY CONFERENCE PLENARY NOVEMBER 13 PROBABLY BY SIMILAR VOTE.

2.(U) BEGIN TEXT. HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS FOR THE BENEFIT OF VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICT. PRESENTED BY THE RED CROSS SOCIETY OF SWEDEN AND THE NETHERLANDS. THE 24TH INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE.

NOTING THE PERSISTENCE OF INTERNATIONAL OR NON-INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICTS IN WHICH THE ICRC IS PARTIALLY OR TOTALLY UNABLE TO FULFILL ITS HUMANITARIAN TASKS IN SITUATIONS COVERED BY THE GENEVA CONVENTION,

DEPLORING IN PARTICULAR THE FACT THAT THE ICRC IS REFUSED ACCESS TO THE CAPTURED COMBATANTS AND DETAINED CIVILIANS IN THE ARMED CONFLICT OF WESTERN SAHARA, OGADEN, AND LATER AFGHANISTAN,

URGES ALL PARTIES CONCERNED TO ENABLE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS TO PROTECT AND ASSIST PERSONS CAPTURED, DETAINED, WOUNDED, OR SICK AND CIVILIANS AFFECTED BY THESE CONFLICTS. END TEXT.

3.(U) RESOLUTION WAS BASED ON PASSAGES IN ICRC'S 1980 ANNUAL REPORT WHICH NOTED THAT NO VISITS WERE POSSIBLE DURING THAT YEAR TO PRISONERS OF WAR IN MOROCCO OR TO THOSE HELD BY THE POLISARIO FRONT; THAT ICRC DELEGATES ONLY HAD ONE-TIME ACCESS IN DECEMBER TO TWO GROUPS OF PRISONERS HELD BY SOMALIA; AND THAT ICRC HAD BEEN DENIED ACCESS ENTIRELY TO CONFLICT IN AFGHANISTAN.

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PAGE 93 MANILA 26780 120842Z

4. (U) DEBATE CENTERED ON EFFORTS OF USSR AND A FEW OTHERS TO DELETE SPECIFIC MENTION OF THE TWO AFRICAN REGIONS AND AFGHANISTAN. IRAQ, EGYPT, SYRIA, ZAMBIA, AND AFGHAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY WERE AMONG THOSE URGING DELETION. ETHIOPIA, NOTING THAT IT WAS COOPERATING WITH ICRC, COMMENDED "NOBLE GESTURE" OF SPONSORS. MAURITANIA RED CRESCENT SAID MAURITANIA HAD NO MORE PRISONERS. SUPPORT FOR SWEDISH/DUTCH TEXT MOUNTED IN THREE TALLIES BEFORE FINAL VOTE, WITH ICRC PRESIDENT HAY MAKING STRONG PLEA

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FOR APPROVAL.

S.(LOU) COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST TIME EVER THAT INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE HAS NAMED SITUATIONS OF ARMED CONFLICT IN WHICH ICRC HAS BEEN DENIED ACCESS. SPONSORS OFFERED AN ELEMENT OF "BALANCE" IN THE RESOLUTION BY IDENTIFYING THE TWO AFRICAN CONFLICTS IN ADDITION TO AFGHANISTAN. SOVIET/EE DISCOMFORT WAS OBVIOUS OVER REFERENCE TO AFGHANISTAN, BUT THEIR OBJECTION, PHRASED SOLELY IN TERMS OF CONFERENCE TRADITION OF NOT NAMING NAMES, WAS HEAVILY DEFEATED. SOME THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES OBJECTED TO WHAT THEY CLAIMED WAS AN OVER-EMPHASIS ON SITUATIONS IN AFRICA, IN WHICH DENIAL OF ICRC HAS BEEN LESS ABSOLUTE THAN AFGHANISTAN. IF AFGHANISTAN ONLY HAD BEEN NAMED, SUPPORT BY THIRD WORLD GOVERNMENTS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN WIDER. END COMMENT. ROSENTHAL

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